



Teacher Resource

# Women's History Month – Vida Goldstein

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Vida's mother was a suffragist. What does that mean?
2. What was the 'monster petition' Vida helped to organise?
3. Think of three adjectives to describe Vida.
4. What causes did she care about?
5. What else did you learn about Vida?

## Activity: Personal Response

Respond to the BTN Vida Goldstein story as a class. Students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Vida Goldstein is an important Australian because...
- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Vida Goldstein...
- This story made me feel...
- It is important to celebrate Vida Goldstein because...

## Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN story, hold a class discussion using the following discussion starters.

- What did the BTN story tell you about the life of Vida Goldstein?
- Name at least one of her achievements.
- Why do you think Vida Goldstein became so famous?
- What questions do you have about Vida Goldstein?



Vida Goldstein

### EPISODE 6

10 March 2026

### KEY LEARNING

Students will recognise and celebrate Australian women who have made significant impact on society.

### CURRICULUM

#### HASS – Year 3 and 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.

#### HASS – Year 5 and 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

#### History – Year 6

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

#### HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

## Activity: Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Vida Goldstein story. Here are some words to get them started.

SUFFAGIST	SOCIAL JUSTICE	PETITION
FEDERAL ELECTORATE	FEDERAL PARLIAMENT	RIGHT TO VOTE

## Activity: Who was Vida Goldstein?

Students will develop a biography of Vida Goldstein. Begin by discussing with students what a biography is. What information is included in a biography and what does it tell us about a person? The biography organiser template at the end of this activity will help students to structure their biography. Students can use the following questions to guide their research.

- When and where was Vida Goldstein born?
- What were some of her achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired/motivated her to run for parliament?
- How are her achievements recognised?
- How has she made an impact on people's lives?
- What do you admire about her?
- What is Vida Goldstein's legacy?



### Interview

Imagine you could sit down and talk to Vida Goldstein. What questions would you ask about her life and achievements?

In pairs, students can role play the interview – one taking on the role of interviewer, the other, as Vida Goldstein.

### Portrait

Create a portrait of Vida Goldstein.

Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums to produce a portrait.

### Persuasive letter

Imagine you are a suffragette living in the late 1800s.

Write a persuasive letter to your local government explaining why women should be able to vote.

## Activity: Women in Politics Timeline

Students will research the history of women in politics and decide what to include in the timeline. Below is a list of important Australian milestones for students to research.

Key Milestones in Australia	Who and/or when?
When were women given the <b>right to vote</b> ?	
When could women stand for <b>federal election</b> ?	
Who and when was the first woman <b>elected to state parliament</b> ?	
Who and when was the first woman <b>elected to federal parliament</b> ?	
Who and when was the first woman <b>elected to the office of Speaker</b> ?	
Who and when was the first woman to <b>lead a state or territory government</b> ?	
Who and when was the first woman appointed <b>governor-general</b> ?	
Who and when was the first female <b>prime minister</b> ?	
Who and when was the first female <b>Indigenous federal parliamentarian</b> ?	
How many seats in the <b>House of Representatives</b> are held by women? Compare over the years.	
How many seats in the <b>Senate</b> are held by women? Compare over the years.	

Students will present their information on a timeline and respond to one or more of the following research questions:

- Find 1-3 interesting facts about each significant event on your timeline. Why are they significant?
- Which events on the timeline do you think are especially significant? Why?
- How has the representation of women in Australian politics changed over time? Use a graph to show your findings.
- Why is it important to have gender representation in government?

## Useful Websites

- [Biography: Vida Goldstein](#) – MOAD
- [Vida Goldstein](#) – Suffragette stories